

WSHL WEEKLY NOTES 11.22.17 – MID-WESTERN DIVISION



DALLAS SNIPERS (4-14-0, 8pts)
WSHLDallasSnipers.pointstreaksites.com
[@DallasSnipers](#)

The Dallas Snipers ran into the freight train that is the 2017-18 Oklahoma City Blazers over the weekend, losing all three games by a total score of 30-4.

Right now, Dallas is leaning hard on Alex Hladonik (10-19-29), Sterling Cooper (12-15-27), and Jaroslav Vasicek (7-14-21), while getting some nice depth from the likes of rookie defenseman Graeme Scott (2-10-12) and Trevor Borlace (6-4-10).

Eric Eaton (5-10-15) played for the Snipers last season and his assist on Saturday put him over the 14 points he had in 52 games in 2016-17.

Michal Pistek (4-10-14) got just four points in 26 games last season, so he and Eaton are finding their groove with this version of the Snipers.

Coach Aaron Davis praised Hladonik's skill, but also that of newcomer Danil Trenikhin (4-2-6 in 9 games).

"Hladonik has been a great addition as well as our newest player Danil Trenikhin," Davis said.

For his part, Trenikhin added an assist and a penalty this weekend against the Blazers.

Dallas will have the week of Thanksgiving off and will play at Wichita the following weekend. The Jr. Thunder are reeling, so it may be an opportunity for Dallas to get their crew to gel a bit.

EL PASO RHINOS (18-0-0, 36pts)

www.EIPasoRhinos.com

@EI_Paso_Rhinos

The Rhinos sandwiched a 6-0 victory on Saturday with two 4-3 wins over hosts Colorado over the weekend. Sunday's win came in overtime thanks to a Justin Dubecky snipe in the extra period.

This was billed as the WSHL Series-of-the-Week (by me), and El Paso did not disappoint in their toughest three-game set since playing the Western Division's Ontario Avalanche in their second weekend of the season.

The Rhinos remain undefeated, and will be tested again in three weeks when they play the currently undefeated Oklahoma City Blazers.

Five El Paso skaters have more than 25 points, led by Chaseton Sare's 17-26-43 line, putting him on pace for a 132 points this season (52-80-132), which would best his 108 points from last year.

Goalie Filip Krasanovsky continues his excellent crease work in the year of the goalie in the WSHL, posting three straight victories against the Jr. Eagles. His slash line is now at 1.21/.943 along with his league leading 14 wins.

El Paso hosts Springfield this week, who they beat 1-0, in their last meeting two weeks ago.

OKLAHOMA CITY BLAZERS (15-0-0, 30pts)

www.OKCityHockey.com

@OKCBlazersWSHL

Four Blazers scored two goals apiece in Friday's 12-1 win over Dallas led by Josh Chamberlain & Ivan Bondarenko's 2-4-6 line each.

Bondarenko added a 3-2-5 line the rest of the weekend, for a total of 5-6-11 in the three-game sweep of the Snipers. He now leads the team with a 24-27-51

line in just 15 games played. That line puts him on an unsustainable pace for 177 points (83-94-177) this season.

The Blazers are scoring at a 9.33 goals/game average while allowing only 1.33 per game, which is incredible, but Head Coach Gary Gill sees room for improvement for his high-flying team.

"I would like to see the team continue to grow," Gill said. "We are still a work in progress – we continually work on execution in all areas of the ice."

Goaltender Bobby Cloutier played all three games against Dallas, stopping 53 shots over the weekend. Cloutier is now sporting an impressive 1.38/.936 slash line to go along with his eight victories.

OKC had long stretches of domination last season, but coach Gill sees something different this season.

"This year's team has the mind set that we must get better at something everyday," he said. "This team has respect for every team in the league, but must play like no matter who we are facing, they are a first-place team."

The Blazers are one of only three undefeated teams left in the WSHL, one of whom is El Paso, which sits six points ahead of OKC in the Mid-Western Division standings. Those two teams face off against each other in three weeks after the Blazers take on Wichita this weekend, and Springfield the week after.

In the middle of a nine-game home streak, OKC may very well be battling with another undefeated team when they play the Rhinos in three weeks.

SPRINGFIELD EXPRESS (11-5-2, 24pts)

www.SpringfieldExpress.com

@_ExpressHockey

The Springfield Express righted the ship after being swept by El Paso two weeks ago, to roll over Mid-Western Division rivals Wichita in the series sweep over the weekend.

Nikita Sokov was passing the gravy all weekend, posting 11 assists in three games to go along with five goals against the Jr. Thunder. Sokov now leads the team with a 14-20-34 line to go along with 49 PIMs.

Last week we said the Ledenkov Twins were seemingly always neck-and-neck with neither of them looking to pass the other in points. Filimon took that to heart, pulling away from his brother after going 4-6-10 against Wichita.

Arkhip went 3-5-8 over the weekend and now holds a 14-17-31 line, just two points behind his brother. With Springfield playing El Paso this weekend, it could be a chance for Arkhip to pull ahead in this season-long battle of brother rock-paper-scissors.

The schedule is not Springfield's friend in the upcoming weeks. With three games at El Paso this weekend, and a home-and-home six-game series with OKC after that, to close out 2017.

With their next nine games against two teams who are currently undefeated, the Express have their work cut out for them. They haven't played OKC yet, but their last game with the Rhinos was a 1-0 battle, so it's possible for Springfield to make some waves.

They currently sit just six points back of OKC, and could really shake things up in the next nine contests.

WICHITA JR. THUNDER (1-17-0, 2pts)

www.WichitaJuniorThunder.com

[@JrThunderHockey](#)

Braeden Thomas' strike on Saturday represented Wichita's only goal over the weekend – a three-game sweep at the hands of Springfield.

That goal put Thomas in the team lead with five goals to go along with two assists. He is now tied with Tyler Alverson for the team lead at seven points each.

Things aren't going to get any easier for the Jr. Thunder with the rest of their schedule featuring all Mid-Western Division foes.

This means Dallas will be their only opponent that currently has a losing record. Wichita plays the Snipers nine times the rest of the way, and could sneak a win in there somewhere. Other than that, victories against the likes of El Paso, Springfield and OKC could prove hard to come by.

--- Tyler Whidden for Harrington Sports Media